

Lesson 13
Writers, Their Work, and
Their Worlds
Edgar Allan Poe
Read, do activities
218-220

A Great Accomplishment -
Write about an accomplishment
of yours

NTID: Non Traditional School Day Packets. Prepared 9-11-18

Grade Level: Eighth Teacher: Dunigan

DAY 2

ELA, Reading/English/Writing/Spelling

Lesson 13 Writers, Their Work, and
Their Worlds

Edgar Allen Poe 215-220
read; do activities

A Great Accomplishment -
Write about an accomplishment
of yours



Name _____

Date _____

Advanced Question Response

“A Great Accomplishment”

Directions: Try to answer the question below.

Question: When was the last time you accomplished something great? Explain.

Example Answer: The last time I accomplished something great was when I climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. It was brutal. It is the highest mountain in Africa. Its peak reaches over 19,000 ft. About half way through the climb, I didn't think I was going to make it to the top. However, my guide kept urging me along, and the climb was finally over after eight days. Reaching the summit was magical. I felt like I had truly accomplished something great.

englishforeveryone.org

Try to answer the question below

When was the last time you accomplished something great? Explain.

The last time I accomplished something great was when I climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. It was brutal. It is the highest mountain in Africa. Its peak reaches over 19,000 ft. About half way through the climb, I didn't think I was going to make it to the top. However, my guide kept urging me along, and the climb was finally over after eight days. Reaching the summit was magical. I felt like I had truly accomplished something great.

18. In the passage, to **disrupt** something means to
- (A) make it disappear
 - (B) corrupt it
 - (C) distrust it
 - (D) follow it
 - (E) interfere with it
19. The writer provides a clue to the meaning of **virtual** by
- (A) using the word as a synonym for **disrupt**
 - (B) mentioning Virginia's death as one of the major misfortunes of Poe's life
 - (C) telling us that some writers believed that, in effect, Poe was mentally ill
 - (D) linking the word to the phrase "at times"
 - (E) indicating that it was a common word among nineteenth-century writers
20. We can infer from the passage that someone who is **unkempt** is
- (A) tormented
 - (B) traveling
 - (C) sick
 - (D) messy
 - (E) talented

- 11.** In the passage, **collective** means
- (A) employment
 - (B) writing
 - (C) necessary
 - (D) difficult
 - (E) joint
- 12.** In the passage, **autonomous** means
- (A) cooperative
 - (B) wealthy
 - (C) unemployed
 - (D) difficult
 - (E) independent
- 13.** In the passage, a **haphazard** manner means
- (A) a happy manner
 - (B) a dangerous manner
 - (C) an independent manner
 - (D) a careless manner
 - (E) a glorious manner
- 14.** According to the passage, why was the winter of 1847 **grueling**?
- (A) Poe managed money poorly.
 - (B) Poe's wife died of tuberculosis.
 - (C) It was a relatively happy time.
 - (D) It was particularly cold.
 - (E) Poe was careless.
- 15.** The writer provides a clue to the meaning of **frenzied** by
- (A) telling us that Poe was miserable
 - (B) saying that Poe was an addict
 - (C) telling us Poe fought his addictions
 - (D) contrasting **frenzied** to the words *sleepy* and *groggy*
 - (E) restating **frenzied** as "wild and frantic"
- 16.** In the passage, to **transcribe** means to
- (A) tape-record
 - (B) avoid
 - (C) listen
 - (D) write down
 - (E) repeat
- 17.** To define **functional** as "able to perform basic tasks," the writer
- (A) says that Poe was unable to take care of himself
 - (B) says that Poe fought his addictions throughout his life
 - (C) associates **functional** with **frenzied** and hallucinations
 - (D) uses the word at the end of a sentence
 - (E) uses the word as a noun

4. The writer lets us know that **equation** may be defined as a balanced group of elements by
- (A) telling us that Poe's stories had dark elements
 - (B) hinting that Poe was a talented mathematician
 - (C) linking **equation** to the words *a balanced combination*
 - (D) using the phrase "borrowed these elements"
 - (E) using the word as a verb
5. We can infer from the passage that the **essence** of something is its
- (A) origin
 - (B) cause
 - (C) basic nature
 - (D) result
 - (E) previous belief
6. The writer provides a clue to the meaning of **reluctant** by
- (A) using the word as an adjective
 - (B) associating it with little boys
 - (C) linking it to the word *childless*
 - (D) contrasting it with the word *eager*
 - (E) using it as a synonym for *attached*
7. When we read in the passage that Allan saw Poe as a **liability**, we should realize that
- (A) he believed he was lucky to have a foster son such as Poe
 - (B) he still owed money to Poe's parents
 - (C) he saw Poe as a burden
 - (D) he thought Poe was too old to be considered a true son
 - (E) he grew more fond of Poe over time
8. Because Poe was **volatile**, his relationships were explosive. To reinforce this point, the writer draws an analogy between Poe and
- (A) a writer
 - (B) a bomb
 - (C) an editor
 - (D) a gambler
 - (E) an alcoholic
9. To let us know that **vanity** may be defined as "the quality of being vain or conceited," the writer
- (A) tells us that Poe had a high regard for his physical appearance
 - (B) indicates that people found Poe extremely unattractive
 - (C) associates vanity with explosive relationships
 - (D) suggests that Poe was ugly
 - (E) tells us that Poe was brilliant
10. If Poe found it difficult to **collaborate** with his co-workers, as the writer of the passage states, we may expect that Poe
- (A) disliked hard labor
 - (B) could not get the hang of things in stacks or groups
 - (C) became angry quickly
 - (D) found it hard to work together with others
 - (E) was employed for long periods of time

- 12. autonomous _____
- 13. haphazard _____
- 14. grueling _____
- 15. frenzied _____
- 16. transcribe _____
- 17. functional _____
- 18. disrupt _____
- 19. virtual _____
- 20. unkempt _____

EXERCISE 2 *Reading Strategically* 

Directions. Now that you have read the passage and thought about the words in boldface, circle the letter of the correct answer to each of the following items. The numbers of the items are the same as the numbers of the boldface vocabulary words in the passage.

1. When the writer tells us that suffering was a **paramount** condition in Poe's life, we should realize that Poe
 - (A) suffered a great deal
 - (B) is an important literary figure
 - (C) led a carefree life
 - (D) wrote horror tales
 - (E) was multitalented

2. In this passage, a **dubious** honor may be defined as an honor that is
 - (A) important
 - (B) doubtful
 - (C) tortured
 - (D) forgotten
 - (E) suffering

3. The writer provides a clue to the meaning of **depict** by
 - (A) associating the word with the darker side of human nature
 - (B) using the word *show* as a synonym for **depict**
 - (C) linking it to the word *famous*
 - (D) linking **depict** to human capabilities
 - (E) associating it with Poe's poetry

collective (11) undertaking is one of the reasons he was frequently unemployed.

Poe did seem to be more productive when he was **autonomous** (12), but he was almost always poor, and so he rarely achieved total independence. He seems to have managed his meager finances in a **haphazard** (13) manner. His carelessness with money is surprising considering how desperately poor he was. His poverty was an endless source of misery that created constant struggles. Poe and his wife were often close to starvation. The winter of 1847 was particularly **grueling** (14); it was then that his young wife Virginia died of tuberculosis.

Overcome by Addictions

One major source of Poe's misery was his addiction to alcohol and other drugs. The least bit of alcohol could put him into a **frenzied** (15) state. In his early years, these wild and frantic states produced strange visions and speeches, though no one ever thought to record, or **transcribe** (16), them.

Poe fought his addictions from time to time, but he was unable to conquer them, and he broke down physically and emotionally year by year. During the period following his wife's death, he was barely **functional** (17) and could not take care of himself. **Frenzy** and hallucinations continued to **disrupt** (18) his life and his work in the following years. Eventually he became so distracted and disordered that he seemed at times to be a **virtual** (19) madman. In fact, some Poe scholars have argued that, in effect, he was mentally ill.

During this period of his life, Poe rarely bathed or combed his hair, and his clothing was in rags. Finally, in September of 1849, a sickly and **unkempt** (20) Poe made a journey to Baltimore to visit his mother-in-law. Weeks later, on October 3, 1849, a friend found him delirious on a sidewalk in Baltimore. Poe died in a hospital four days later; his tormented life was over.

EXERCISE 1

Finding Synonyms

Directions. Reread the preceding passage. Then write on the line provided a synonym for each of the words in boldface. If you cannot think of an exact synonym, you may write a brief definition of the word.

1. **paramount** _____
2. **dubious** _____
3. **depict** _____
4. **equation** _____
5. **essence** _____
6. **reluctant** _____
7. **liability** _____
8. **volatile** _____
9. **vanity** _____
10. **collaborate** _____
11. **collective** _____

READING NEW WORDS IN CONTEXT

Lesson 13 **CONTEXT: Writers, Their Work, and Their Worlds**

The passage gives you an opportunity to expand your vocabulary. Below are twenty vocabulary words that are used in the passage and in the exercises that follow it.

autonomous	dubious	grueling	transcribe
collaborate	equation	haphazard	unkempt
collective	essence	liability	vanity
depict	frenzied	paramount	virtual
disrupt	functional	reluctant	volatile

Edgar Allan Poe: The Tormented Writer

Most writers live perfectly ordinary lives, taking out the garbage, making dinner, going to ballgames, and so on. Many people, however, still imagine the writer as a lonely and melancholy figure who suffers for the sake of art. This notion of the tormented artist, for whom crisis is so important, is based on the lives of a few famous writers. Among these writers is Edgar Allan Poe (1809–1849). Suffering, above all, was the **paramount** (1) condition of his life. As a result, he has the honor—a **dubious** (2), or doubtful, one—of being remembered as one of the most tormented figures in all of American literature.

Although Poe thought of himself chiefly as a poet, he is just as well known for his short stories. They **depict** (3) the darker side of human nature and show the evil that human beings are capable of. His stories are memorable because of their balanced combination of supernatural events, mysterious characters, and eerie settings in castle dungeons and secret passageways. This **equation** (4) of dark elements is the formula for one kind of mystery writing even today. Poe borrowed these elements from the tradition of the Romantic movement, but condensed them into their **essence** (5) for his short stories.

A Tragic Life

The suffering and misfortune described in Poe's stories seem to come out of his own tragic experiences. Both of Poe's parents died when he was very young. After his mother's death, he was taken into the home of Frances and John Allan. Frances, who was childless, was eager to care for the little boy, but John Allan was **reluctant** (6) to take him in. Evidently, Allan grew displeased that his wife became so attached to the boy, and as the years passed, he came to see his foster son as a **liability** (7) rather than a blessing. When Poe took up the destructive habits of drinking and gambling, the relationship became increasingly **volatile** (8); John Allan became more angered by Poe's behavior.

In fact, Poe had a short fuse, and explosiveness characterized many of his relationships. One reason may have been his **vanity** (9). If the number of admirers he had is any indication, his high regard for his physical appearance may have been justified. There is no doubt that he was brilliant. But frequently he seemed to lack respect for others. For example, as an editor, he often found it difficult to work with others. His inability to **collaborate** (10) with other writers on any